Conference on Disarmament

13 September

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Note Verbale dated 10 September 2018 from the Permanent Missions of the Republic of Kazakhstan addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament, transmitting the text of the Joint Statement by H.E. Mr. Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Dr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and the Declaration adopted in Astana during the 2018 CTBTO Group of Eminent Persons – Youth International Conference "Remembering the past, looking to the future" which was held on August 28 – September 2, 2018.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honor to transmit herewith the text of the Joint Statement by H.E. Mr. Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Dr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and the Declaration adopted in Astana during the 2018 CTBTO Group of Eminent Persons — Youth International Conference "Remembering the past, looking to the future" which was held on August 28 — September 2, 2018.

In this regard the Permanent Mission requests that the Joint Statement and the Declaration to be issued and circulated as official documents of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Permanent Mission avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament the assurances of its highest consideration.

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Joint Statement by H.E. Mr. Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Dr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)

Astana 29 August 2018

1. On the occasion of the International Day against Nuclear Tests proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly at the initiative of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, we reaffirm our commitment to realizing a world free of nuclear testing and renew our resolve to achieve the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). It is a symbolic day for Kazakhstan because of the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site in 1991.

2. A historic decision to close the Semipalatinsk testing site, which was made by the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev on 29 August 1991, sent a strong political message and contributed to the international efforts that led to the adoption of the CTBT in 1996. Over the years, Kazakhstan has provided strong support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and demonstrated determination to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons. In 2008, the CTBTO held the first large-scale on-site inspection (OSI) integrated field exercise in Semey. In 2015-2017 Kazakhstan, together with Japan, co-chaired the CTBT Article XIV Process to facilitate speedy entry into force of the Treaty.

3. Kazakhstan, as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2017-2018, is tirelessly supporting international efforts aimed at strengthening the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, highlighting the danger that nuclear weapons pose to global peace and stability.

4. Kazakhstan and the CTBTO invite all States to take part in commemorating the International Day against Nuclear Tests and advance the much needed entry into force of the CTBT, which is considered to be a crucial instrument of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

5. We believe that the International Conference of the CTBTO Youth Group and Group of Eminent Persons under the theme "Remembering the past, looking to the future" (the Astana Conference) will be helpful in raising public awareness of the dangerous consequences of the use of nuclear testing.

6. We dedicate ourselves individually and jointly to realizing this goal towards nuclear disarmament.

7. We call on all States Signatories to spare no effort to ensure that the nuclear test ban becomes legally binding by achieving the entry into force of the CTBT. We also call on all States to continue the moratoria on nuclear test explosions.

8. We urge those States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty to do so without delay. We especially call on the remaining eight CTBT Annex 2 States, whose ratifications are needed for the Treaty's entry into force, to demonstrate leadership by taking this important step.

9. It is high time to bring the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty into force. We owe it to ourselves, and to future generations.

Kazakhstan Conference Declaration

On the occasion of the International Day against Nuclear Tests, which is observed each year on 29 August, a joint meeting between the Group of Eminent Persons (GEM) and the Youth Group (CYG) of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) took place in Astana, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Under the banner of the 2018 CTBTO GEM-Youth International Conference "Remembering the past, looking to the future", the participants reaffirmed their commitment to advance a world free of nuclear testing, bearing in mind the human and environmental legacy of nuclear weapon test explosions, and their resolve in enhancing cooperation to promote the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty's (CTBT) long awaited entry into force.

Kazakhstan Conference participants collectively:

1. Express their gratitude to the Government of Kazakhstan for its unwavering commitment to promoting the CTBT, recognizing the closing of the Semipalatinsk test site as a milestone in global non-proliferation and disarmament history;

2. Recognize that the CTBT constitutes the most effective and practical non-proliferation and disarmament measure within grasp of the international community;

3. Call upon all States to continue their support in advancing the entry into force of the Treaty as the most practical step towards nuclear disarmament, notably during the upcoming 2020 NPT Review Conference;

4. Recall United Nations Security Council Resolution 2310 (2016) which urges all States that have either not signed or not ratified the Treaty, particularly the eight remaining Annex 2 States, to do so without further delay and encourages all States Signatories to promote the universality and entry into force of the Treaty;

5. Commit to place the CTBT on the agenda of the world's most important events and to conduct tailored outreach work in line with the 2018-2019 plan of action adopted at the conference;

6. Invite the international community to consider making use of the available expertise and monitoring technologies of the Commission worldwide including in the Korean Peninsula;

7. Emphasize the role of parliamentarians, civil society, academia and youth to develop tailored strategies for increased regional support for the CTBT and its universalization;

8. Stress the important role of youth in promoting the CTBT and, in particular, the activities of the CYG;

9. Recognize the overarching objective of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons and highlight the importance of first achieving the key precondition for this - a world without nuclear testing;

10. Note the potential contribution of the CTBT and its verification regime to Disaster Risk Reduction and the advancement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals;

11. Encourage further promotion of the science diplomacy nexus through concrete CTBTO capacity building projects;

12. Decide to pursue close coordination and collaboration between the CTBTO Group of Eminent Persons (GEM) and the CTBTO Youth Group (CYG);

13. Recognize States support through voluntary contributions for capacity building projects focusing on the next generation of policy and scientific leaders and encourage further such contribution.